

Expect there to be more and more reporting on the W76 and related Fogbank issues in coming months amid the ongoing debate regarding the need or desirability of the Reliable Replacement Warhead.

Dr. Jeffrey Lewis addressed some of the issues at his blog, <u>Arms Control Wonk</u>, pulling together what's been said to date on Fogbank and adding his analysis.

For those who didn't see Rob Edwards' full story last week in *New Scientist*, here's a link to it at his blog.

If indeed the W76 is the prime candidate to be replaced by the RRW, then eliminating the use of hazardous Fogbank could support arguments for the new warhead. I don't think the NNSA has exactly spelled it out that way, at least not yet, although one of the arguments generally used to promote RRW has been the notion of getting rid of old bomb-making materials that are either difficult to acquire or simply dangerous to use.

But there's been a reluctance to tie the re-manufacturing problems with the W76 to the development of the RRW.

Last month, when I asked the federal manager at Y-12 if the W76 and RRW were linked, if one affected the other, his response amounted to two letters: No.

Maybe I just didn't ask the question the right way.

Posted by Frank Munger on March 10, 2008 at 12:08 PM Share this post: Digg It! | Add to del.icio.us | Submit to Reddit | Add to Netscape | Technorati

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